Moreover, other cells, elongated at right angles to the axis of the woody stem, are scattered among the woody cells in horizontal bands or ribbons running through the xylem like spokes of a wheel. These are known as *wood rays* and facilitate the horizontal transfer of materials in the stem or act as centers of food storage. Other types of cells are provided with spiral thickenings or bands to furnish more elasticity for the bending and swaying daily exacted by winds on the aerial parts of a tree.

AN INTRICATE SYSTEM

The different cells in a woody stem are thus adapted in a variety of ways to the welfare of the tree to offer it mechanical support, elasticity, and flexibility. As the sap wood changes to heart wood, the cell walls of the heart wood become impregnated with tannin, resins, and other substances and the heart wood increases in hardness, thereby aiding the mechanical strength of the trunk. The heart wood also possesses, by means of these added chemicals in its cell walls, certain toxic properties that help keep the tree strong by preventing disintegration of the wood. Light woods possess more cell-cavity space than heavy woods and can be more easily entered by destructive fungus plants.

Although these woody elements are found in all woody plants, no two woody plants are alike. Actually trees can be identified by their internal wood structure, so intimately connected with their habits and growth. The very fact that the many species of native trees in the Chicago region have survived for thousands of years following the withdrawal of the last ice sheet is proof of their ability to survive. However, much remains to be learned regarding each species of tree and its particular relation of resistance to breaking by winds and ice.

## WYOMING 'MUMMY' MYSTERY SOLVED

The mystery surrounding a so-called "dwarf mummy" found in a cave near Casper, Wyoming, was dispelled by investigations made by members of the scientific staff of this Museum last month. The specimen had had wide publicity in the newspapers and on the radio as a supposed representative of a hitherto unknown prehistoric race of men and was thought to be adult despite its stature of only 14 inches. It was brought to the Museum for study by its owner, Iva P. Goodman, of Casper, and Ray Henle, a commentator for the National Broadcasting Company.

The study was conducted by Dr. Rainer Zangerl, Curator of Fossil Reptiles, and D. Dwight Davis, Curator of Vertebrate Anatomy, who issued the following statement (with which Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, concurred):

"X-ray photographs made at Chicago Natural History Museum reveal that the 14-inch dwarf 'mummy' said to have been unearthed in 1934 from a sealed granite cave near Casper, Wyoming, is the dried body of a human infant. The child was an anencephalus monster, the commonest of all congenital malformations in man. In anencephaly the brain and brain-case fail to develop, and such monsters rarely live for more than a few minutes after birth. The deformation gives a hideously non-human appearance to the head and neck, but the rest of the body is usually quite normal.

"The X-rays show conclusively that the supposed 'dwarf' cannot be an adult. The development of the bones is exactly like that of a child at birth. Photos of anencephalic monsters can be seen in any textbook on the use of X-rays in embryology and obstetrics.

"The 'mummy' is not a real mummy, but merely a dried body of an infant probably buried not more than 25 years. Suggestions that it is the body of a miniature prehistoric man are fantastic. It might have been a 'skeleton' from someone's family closet, surreptitiously deposited in the cave in which it was discovered. Because of its shriveled condition, it is impossible to tell whether the infant was an Indian or a white man."

## PALEONTOLOGY EXPEDITION BEGINS TEXAS WORK

The Texas Paleontological Expedition will leave Chicago April 1. Bryan Patterson, Curator of Fossil Mammals, and Dr. Rainer Zangerl, Curator of Fossil Reptiles, plan to work in a large area surrounding the cities of Dallas and Fort Worth, located in the northern part of the eastern Cretaceous belt of Texas. The expedition has two main objectives: (1) a careful investigation of the Early Cretaceous Trinity Sands in Montague County, where a reconnaisance party of the Museum discovered mammalian and frog remains last autumn, and (2) to search for similar deposits south of Montague County and for Late Cretaceous vertebrates mainly in the Eagle Ford Shale and the Taylor Marl (very few vertebrate localities are known in the latter formations). Investigation of the Late Cretaceous deposits in Texas presents a continuation of our program of faunal study of the southern so-called Gulf Series of deposits of late Cretaceous age.

### Technical Publication Issued

The following technical publication was issued by Chicago Natural History Museum last month:

Fieldiana: Zoology Memoirs, Vol. 1. *Siphonaptera from Central America and Mexico.* By Robert Traub. February 28, 1950. 127 pages, 54 zinc plates. $4.

## FIFTY YEARS AGO AT THE MUSEUM

Compiled by MARGARET J. BAUER

The Museum's original habitat group of the polar bear was mounted for a four-sided case by the late Carl Akeley in 1900. The reinstallation of the group with a painted background necessitated a completely new

The original group of polar bears in 1900

The present habitat group of polar bears in Hall 16

plan. The present group is in Richard T. Crane, Jr., Hall (American Mammals—Hall 16).

* * *

"The work of collecting fossil dinosaurs was continued during the summer by an expedition made to Colorado by Assistant Curator Riggs and Preparator Menke. . . . One leg bone found, probably a humerus, was 6 feet 10 inches in length, exceeding by several inches any such bone ever found before and giving proof of the existence of an animal of the dinosaur type larger than was ever before described."

### Last of Audubon Lectures April 16

The fifth and final lecture in the current series of the Illinois Audubon Society will be given Sunday afternoon, April 16, at 2:30 o'clock in the James Simpson Theatre of the Museum. The lecture, "The Riddle of Migration," will be presented by Roger Tory Peterson, of New York, artist, scientist, and author of widely used field-guides to bird identification.